

Part II. MEANING AND CHARACTERISTICS OF COMBAT POWER

Chapter I. Meaning and Basic Principles of Combat Power

1. The three factors of combat

Combat is governed by the following three factors:

ENERGY [POWER]--basic factor in striking the enemy

TIME--the natural phenomena of light and darkness, heat and cold, fair and rainy weather, etc., and timeliness

SPACE--character of the terrain and other natural phenomena, the spatial extent, and posture

These three elements are mutually interrelated and either strengthen or weaken energy, which is the essence of combat, and whenever energy is applied, they all are inseparably involved.

Even with the present developments in science and technology, the mutual

relationship of these three factors continues unchanged; and among these three elements, energy is most easily changed by manpower and is the factors that must be given most attention for combat.

2. Combat power

War is a struggle between two parties that have free will; and this struggle is an act of violence employed to cause the opponent to submit, and to realize our will. In other words, among the three factors of combat, energy is the direct instrument for combat, and this fighting energy--energy to fight the enemy in military combat--is combat power. Also, with changes in the times, the importance of combat power is gradually increasing, and the proportional difference in importance between it and the factors of time and space is becoming greater and greater.

Combat power is divided into intangible factors and tangible factors.

a. Intangible factors

The intangible factors are the mental and bodily capabilities of the individuals and groups that comprise the military units (forces), the most important one being the spiritual strength of the units and forces. In other words, these factors include the following:

Quality of command and control

State of discipline (troop morale) and fighting spirit

Quality of training

Esprit de corps and the spirit of teamwork

The characteristics of these intangible factors are as follows:

- (1) Their power (action) is not manifested as a definite quantity and, except in actual combat, cannot be demonstrated even experimentally.
- (2) They change greatly, depending on people and conditions. In other words, if things go well, multiplied power is brought to bear, but if things go badly, they act as a large minus.
- (3) They comprise an indivisible unity with the tangible factors and are basic factors that determine victory.
- (4) The capability of the commander exerts enormous influence on the quality of the spiritual factor of his unit.

b. Tangible factors

The tangible factors are the number of persons (military personnel strength) and the quantity and quality of materiel. For example, they are the organization and equipment and the performance, power, and quantities of various weapons; and

they are used as casualty-producing power, destructive power, tactical mobility, and other physical strengths.

Tangible factors, to some extent, can be considered as standards with numerical values, and they are the basis for combat power.

3. Principles of combat power

a. Essence of combat power

Combat power is the basic one of the three factors of combat and, over time and space, changes quickly and continuously.

Combat power, essentially, has four properties. These are the four properties of concentration, dispersion, action, and inaction.

"Concentration"--Combat power, when concentrated, is strengthened.

"Dispersion"--Combat power, when dispersed, is weakened.

"Action"--Combat power, when it takes action, is strengthened.

"Inaction"--Combat power, when it remains inactive, is weakened.

In other words, combat power, through application and combination of these four properties, brings its character to bear. No matter how much combat power there is, if it is dispersed or remains inactive, that combat power cannot be fully realized, and only when it is concentrated and takes action is the entire combat power used.

From this, when an attempt is made to strike the enemy, the principles of war of "concentration" x "action" result and, hence, the attack is the best means to secure the initiative and be able to obtain decisive results.

The strength and size of combat power are definitely basic conditions for victory, but understanding the nature of combat power and using it skilfully also are essential conditions for victory. It should be remembered that there is an unbroken list of examples since antiquity of disastrous defeats from mistakes in applying the principles of war while having strong and large combat power.

b. Characteristics of the application of combat power

Items about which caution is necessary in using combat power and in further increasing it, thought out from the three factors of combat and from the nature of combat power, yield the following characteristics:

(1) Multiplication quality

Combat power, multiplied by various factors, is applied and used against the enemy. In other words, combat power, with appropriate selection and combination of its four properties, is further multiplied by the advantages of time (use of weather, seizing tactical opportunities, etc.) and land (use of terrain,

favorable posture, etc.), and only then is it applied as counter-enemy power. Aiming for these multiplied results is an art, and combat power is greatly increased by art.

Application of combat power = (basic combat power) x

(selection and combination of its four properties) x (time) x (space),

Art

(2) Relativity

In combat, there is always an opponent, and the application of combat power is relative to the enemy, so that there is no basis to be able to show a standard or limit of power that is considered sufficient. Since it is not known whether the enemy will apply power greater than the power we consider optimum, it is necessary conscientiously to muster all factors to the maximum.

(3) Absoluteness

In cases where the various elements related to the use of combat power exert an effect of approximately the same amount in both forces, victory is in direct proportion to the absolute values of tangible combat power.

As already stated, combat power is a multiplication of tangible and intangible factors, but there clearly are limitations to compensating for deficiencies in tangible factors, that is, principally, the physical combat power, by means of intangible factors, that is, principally the spiritual strength of the unit (force). In other words, in cases where there is more than some given limit of difference between physical combat powers, it is clear that physical combat power cannot be compensated for, even by spiritual strength or strategem.

Here is a principle of war concerning the absoluteness of tangible combat power in the application of combat power.

Note: If D-year is the year in which hostilities commence, the number of years

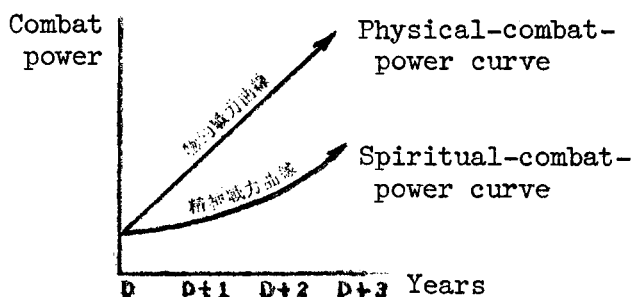


Fig. 2

is indicated on the horizontal axis, and combat power on the vertical axis, then the physical-combat-power curve rises sharply after the outbreak of hostilities, whereas the rise of the spiritual-combat-power curve is extremely slow. If combat power is the result of multiplying the two items together, as against a country with a strong rate of increase of physical combat power, no matter how much effort is made to

develop spiritual combat power, the outcome is clear.

(4) Three-dimensionality

When combat power is applied three-dimensionally in the three dimensions of

land, sea, and air, it can be largest and most complete.

The three-dimensional nature of combat power makes possible simultaneous neutralization or defense of the entire depth.

When land, sea, and air power is applied in a balance that suits the situation, it is strongest, and air superiority strengthens the ground sphere of dominant power and the control of the sea.

Historical example: The historical example of the British forces at Sinzweya in the Akyab Campaign in Burma [1944]

(5) Weakening

A moving force is gradually weakened by attrition and finally comes to a standstill. In a way similar to this principle, combat power also is gradually weakened by movement.

In other words:

- (a) Combat power, with a rapid advance, becomes weaker and, on reaching the combat-power change-about point [where the balance shifts to favor the opponent], comes to a standstill.
- (b) Confusion produced by the first impact of attack calms down with the passage of time, and the terror effect decreases with the passage of time.
- (c) The fighting spirit of the attacker is heightened by the intensity of power, being highest at the time of initial impact, and gradually weakens from enemy resistance.

Hence, it is necessary that combat power advance in a way that maintains increasing speed; and for this purpose, it is necessary to dispose combat power in depth.

Historical examples:

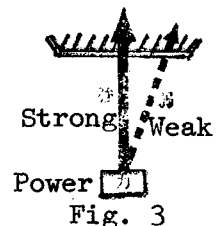
One of the causes for the failure of the offensive of the German forces on the Western Front at the beginning of World War I (insufficient combat power in depth at important fronts).

Example of the Japanese forces in the Imphal Campaign

(6) Directionality

- (a) Direction of strike by combat power

When power is applied perpendicularly [relative to the enemy], is it strongest physically. In Cases of oblique directions, power becomes divided, dispersed, and weakened.



Hence, the direction of orientation of combat power must be perpendicular to the enemy.

(b) Point toward which combat power is directed

If the point toward which combat power is directed is a place where enemy power is superior or equal [to ours], success cannot be expected; and it is necessary that direction be toward a point where enemy power is weak, a point that hinders the action of the enemy's (concentration x action), or a place that requires time for (concentration x action).

Hence, as the element to be attacked, the choice is, firstly, the enemy's rear; secondly, the enemy's flank; thirdly, the outer portion of the enemy's wing; and only if unavoidable, it is necessary to select the front.

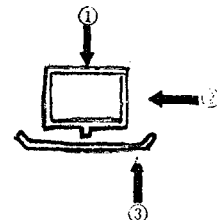


Fig. 4

(7) Creationality

Combat power is created by people. In other words, it is created and improved while functioning in time and space and is applied on the battlefield to determine victory or defeat with the enemy. The commander's creation of combat power is one of the arts. The commander must be a great artist.

Historical example: The concentration of power by the German forces' combining their air force and armored units at the beginning of World War II.

(8) Timing

In operations, generally, both sides are in action. These actions change from inaction to action, from concentration to dispersion, or the reverse. The occasions that cause these changes of action are weaknesses; and, with the passage of time, these weaknesses usually gradually become strengths.

Chapter II. Organizing and Coordinating Combat Power

1. Meaning of organizing combat power

The organizing of combat power is the organizing and coordinating of combat power; strictly speaking, it is coordinating for effective application and is a measure indispensable for applying combat power. In other words, only by effectively organizing and coordinating is it possible to apply integrated and sufficient power.

In modern warfare, with the increase in factors comprising combat power and with progress in science and technology, the importance of the effort to organize combat power becomes ever greater.

Command in war, in one viewpoint, can be said to be determining the time and direction for use of combat power, organizing and coordinating combat power, advancing combat power, and maintaining combat power. Among these, organizing and coordinating combat power occupy an important segment of the field of command.

2. Cautionary items in organizing combat power

a. Fulfilling conditions for application of integrated combat power

For this purpose, firstly, unity of command is an absolute prerequisite. Since organization is integration in order to achieve effectiveness, if the central point [of command] is absent or multiple, organization itself becomes impossible.

In Operation "Overlord," which is said to have greatly shown the influence of organization, this point was what received attention first.

Second is unity of the plan or concept. In order to cope with the innumerable changes in battlefield conditions, the initial organizing of combat power estimates changes in the situation and is made with certain assumptions. In this case, when there is disunity in plan and inconsistency in concept, with development of the tactical situation, organization immediately becomes confused, and coordination collapses.

Hence, unity of command and of plan or concept is extremely important for integrating combat power and for the attainment of common objectives.

Historical example: Operation "Overlord" of the Allied forces in World War II.

b. Complete grasp of the characteristics of the combat power inherent in a unit

In organizing units, it is necessary to understand each [characteristic] correctly and to cause the concentration of the individual characteristics in the most effective manner for the objective. Command also can be called the road to grasping and combining the individual factors [time, space, power]. An inherent weakness of organization and coordination is that the interruption or deterioration of the action of one of the factors endangers the application of the entire combat power. Hence, organizing on the basis of inaccurate factors eventuates in no power.

c. Originality and surprise

In organizing, there are basic rules, but their form is infinitely varied. It is devising these forms that is the art of war, and it is this improved originality that favors victory over the enemy.

Historical examples:

Nobunaga's use of muskets in the Battle of Nagashino [1575]

Wedge tactics of the German forces

Island-hopping strategy of the U.S. Armed Forces

d. Flexibility

On the battlefield with its innumerable changes, rejection of rigid organization

and successive shifts in flexible organization and coordination through flexible thinking, constitute the cardinal principle of command and the basis of success. For this reason, it always is necessary to prepare reserve plans or to formulate supplementary measures, etc., as counterplans to meet changes in the situation.

Coordination must be careful; it is a continuing process, and when a plan is once established, that does not mean that everything is finished.

Historical example: Tactics of Soviet forces at Nomonhan (at first, the Soviet forces rushed tanks to the front, meeting the counterattack of the Japanese forces; thereafter, it used dummy tanks and, after neutralizing exposed positions Japanese forces by means of artillery, applied the combined combat power of infantry combat, achieving success).

e. Not presenting openings that the enemy can take advantage of

Not leaving openings is not only rational and effective, but also means strength against enemy counterattacks.

For example, the U.S. Navy's circular formation, Germany's Panzerfaust (moving fortress) in World War II, the British-type circular position at Sinzweya in the Second Akyab Campaign, the circular defensive position of the U.S. and Chinese forces in the Hukawng Valley at the northern border of Burma, etc., are good typical examples.

f. Timeliness in meeting the situation

The accuracy and flexibility of organization increase in direct proportion to the time, and tactical opportunities and coordination are opposites.

The elapse of time for organization increases combat power but may miss a valuable tactical opportunity.

It is necessary to decide between time (opportunity) and power by proper appraisal of enemy power, of the necessity for organizing our combat power, and of the constraints of time.

For example, in case of an attack, the question arises of whether to coordinate and go with power or to seize the tactical opportunity and go with art. If too much importance is placed on the tactical opportunity and an attack is initiated with insufficient power, the attack will suddenly bog down.

Hence, it is important to grasp this limitation. Ascertaining necessary power and integrating that with the time requirement, results in the organizing of maximum combat power.

Historical examples:

Examples of success in organizing combat power:

Normandy landing operation

"Cylindrical" defense at Sinzweya [encircled but with aerial supply]

Examples of failure in organizing combat power:

Counterattacks of Gallipoli, Guadalcanal, and Saipan

Chapter III. Tactical Opportunity and the Surprise Attack

1. Relative combat power

Combat power, as already stated, is applied by the multiplication of various factors. Hence, it is self-evident that differences will occur in the power actually applied on the battlefield, irrespective of the intrinsic combat power.

Combat is a relative matter, and both sides, respectively, fight with the power that they actually can apply. The power that both sides, respectively, can apply is called the relative combat power.

The outcome of battle receives its verdict of the superior wins and the inferior loses, on the basis of this relative combat power. All the concrete principles of war that are derived from the basic principle of war that the superior wins and the inferior loses, are simply the seeking of the cause-and-effect relationship of how to create and improve relative combat power superior to that of the enemy.

Comparison of the power of both sides in the study of tactics is not merely a ratio of firepower or of military-personnel strength; superiority must be evaluated based on this relative combat power.

In combat, for us to have superiority in relative combat power, every effort must be concentrated on utilization of terrain and weather, establishment of a favorable posture, obtaining pertinent intelligence, logistic support, etc.; but the most important tactic is utilization of tactical opportunity and the surprise attack.

2. Tactical opportunity

a. Meaning of tactical opportunity

Tactical opportunity is the chance of victory.

In other words, it is an inevitable or chance opportunity in war where we can expect superiority in our relative combat power (our application of combat power sufficient to be able to defeat or destroy the enemy).

Also, tactical opportunity is a continually shifting thing. The tactical opportunity normally lasts only a short time, this differing with the size of the unit. Some last only a moment, some continue for some time. Also, there are tactical opportunities that occur not just once but several times.

b. How does a favorable combat opportunity arise?

(1) Created by one's own effort

For example,

- (a) Luring the enemy into terrain where one's own combat power can be used but application of enemy combat power is difficult.
- (b) Trapping the enemy into a situation where his combat personnel are split.
- (c) Acting so that our posture is favorable to us.

In other words, it is causing the enemy to expose his weak points, in judo called "preparatory action and attack" (breaking the opponent's posture, creating a posture where a throw is easily effected, and oneself effecting the throw).

(2) Occurring by chance during the course of combat or occurring as a result of waiting

Examples include the following:

- (a) Splitting of enemy combat personnel, confusion, carelessness, etc., resulting from the enemy's mistakes.
- (b) Deficiency in the enemy's application of combat power because of the effect of terrain and weather.
- (c) Seizing the point of termination of an enemy offensive (combat-power change-about point).

c. Use of the tactical opportunity

A tactical opportunity must be grasped and used.

For this reason, if the commander gathers timely, appropriate intelligence information, detects a tactical opportunity through discerning foresight and an eye for opportunity, and, at some time, seizes a tactical opportunity, this must be utilized through excellent decisiveness and executive ability.

At that time, within some limit, it is possible to change even numerical inferiority into superior relative combat power through utilization of a tactical opportunity, but for this purpose, it always is necessary to make appropriate preparations in order to be able to seize the tactical opportunity, and particular care must be taken not to jump uselessly at an opportunity, attack without preparation, and be defeated.

Also, it is important for commanders of all ranks to stress quick and alert command, the will to seize opportunities, and independent, aggressive action.

Historical examples:

Examples of success in seizing tactical opportunities:

Battle of Shizugatake (army of Hideyoshi Hashiba [=Toyotomi])[1583]

Inchon Landing in the Korean War [1950]

Example of failure in seizing tactical opportunities:

Battle of Yamazaki (army of Mitsuhide Akechi)[1582]

3. Tactic of mass

a. Meaning of the tactic of mass

The tactic of mass is the concentration of an overwhelmingly large quantity of military manpower and materiel and the formation of combat power with absolute superiority in quantity over that of the enemy.

For the Soviet forces, evolving this mass tactic is an essential condition of combat, and in the German-Soviet struggle in World War II, the German forces were crushed by this tactic.

b. Relationship between tactical opportunity and mass

In military history from ancient times on, there are many examples of compensating for inferior mass through utilizing a tactical opportunity and seizing victory, but in cases where there is a great difference in mass, it is difficult for the inferior to obtain a superior position in relative combat power, regardless of his effort to utilize tactical opportunities.

It is difficult to indicate by figures the difference in mass that can be compensated for, by utilizing a tactical opportunity, but it can be said that the inferior side cannot win against an enemy that has more than some given limit in absolute superiority in mass.

Also, it must be noted that a unit that emphasizes tactical opportunities, once it has missed a tactical opportunity, will experience great impact when a tactical opportunity is seized by the enemy; and on the other hand, a unit that emphasizes the tactic of mass, when mass is lost, also will experience great impact.

4. Surprise attack

a. Meaning of surprise attack

Surprise attack is attempting to gain superiority in relative combat power by taking the enemy unawares and not giving the enemy time to react.

Here it must be noted that, even if it is possible to effect a surprise at first, when the enemy, by taking countermeasures, is in a superior position in

relative combat power, it is not a surprise attack but merely effecting a surprise. On the other hand, in cases where superiority in relative combat power is retained by a swift and daring sudden strike that does not give the enemy time to take countermeasures, that can be called a surprise attack. In short, not giving the enemy time for counteraction is of primary importance for a surprise attack, and for this reason, power and speed are necessary. The principle of war of surprise attack rests on this.

Note: Increase in power through strategem:

Emphasizing strategem.....surprise attack

Emphasizing power.....assault

From strategem x power.....sudden attack

(The term "surprise attack" in current manuals may be said to be a general term for all three.)

b. Types of surprise attack

There are various types of measures and methods for achieving a surprise attack, but these may be classified by form, as follows:

- (1) Time-type surprise attack
- (2) Place-type surprise attack
- (3) Mass-type surprise attack
- (4) Quality-type surprise attack
- (5) Tactics-type surprise attack

All of these are achieved by use of terrain and weather, application of speed, concealment and deception, change of measures and methods, etc.

c. Effectiveness of the surprise attack

The effectiveness of the surprise attack is, firstly, destruction of the enemy's intangible combat power through spiritual impact, that is, aiming at confusion of command, lowered morale, etc., and secondly, through our swift strike, making difficult the application of the enemy's tangible combat power (personnel, weapons, etc.).

In other words, it is an attempt, by combining these two elements, to curtail greatly the application of the enemy's combat power and to gain superiority for our relative combat power.

Historical examples:

Time-type surprise attack:

Battle of Okehazama [1560]

Landing of U.S. forces on Saipan and Guadalcanal

Place-type surprise attack:

Battles of Ichinotani [1184] and Itsukushima [1555]

Napoleon's crossing of the Alps

Tactics-type surprise attack:

Battle of Nagashino [1575]

Blitz operations of the German Army in World War II

Technological-type surprise attack

Appearance of tanks in the [Battle of the] Somme [1916]

Atomic bomb

Chapter IV. Frontal Combat Power and Combat Power in Depth

1. Meaning of frontal combat power

Frontal combat power is each unit's combat power directed toward the front facing the enemy in order to accomplish a battle role. In other words, along with deploying first-line manpower on its own battle front and applying its own combat power, each unit is supported by artillery and aviation firepower and, if necessary, is reinforced with airborne troops and heliborne forces, and it also is directed three-dimensionally, air-defense combat power being directed against the enemy's air power.

The question of how much manpower to assign to the first line differs according to mission, terrain, enemy situation, degree of firepower support, etc. Considered in isolation, the greater the manpower density, the greater the combat power; but on the other hand, in cases of density exceeding some definite limit, combat power is decreased. Hence, a manpower density favorable to the application of combat power generally remains within a definite range.

2. Significance and necessity of combat power in depth

In order to gain victory, superiority in combat power must be applied continuously and with suitable width and depth not only in the initial period but until achievement of the goal (seizing the objective), and the enemy must be kept under strong pressure throughout. Also, since first-line manpower suffers attrition rapidly with the progress of combat with the enemy, in order to maintain it, continuous and uninterrupted replacement of combat power is necessary. In

this way, combat power maintained in depth in order continually to apply maximum frontal combat power and to maintain and improve it, is combat power in depth.

On the other hand, maintenance of combat power in depth may generate a doubt as to whether there may not occur the mistake of piecemeal use of combat power, but this will not necessarily occur.

This is because the gains achieved by the first-line units are immediately utilized and expanded by units in the rear, so that the initial attack shock effect remains undiminished. In this case, if the opportunity is missed to utilize the gains of the first line, there is slippage into piecemeal use of combat power. Hence, selection of the opportunity and of the appropriate position to introduce combat power in depth and application of tactical mobility are important conditions.

Historical example: Battle of Mikata-ga-hara

At Mikata-ga-hara, Ieyasu Tokugawa was present with a [latent] "inverted wedge" formation as in the sketch map, whereas Shingen Takeda deployed all his units in depth and fought by means of the tactic of "rotating elements in the fighting line." As a result, Ieyasu's force initially was superior, but gradually was overcome by the combat power of Shingen's force deployed in depth; and the fact that, in the end, victory fell to Takeda's force is a good example showing the importance of maintaining combat power in depth.

The caution in Sun-tzu, "in communicating-ground [terrain equally accessible to both forces] do not allow your formations to become separated," also is this principle.

3. Maintenance of combat power in depth

a. Maintenance of combat power in depth is dependent on echelonned distribution of combat power and on reserves.

Note: Here, reserves is not only reserve troops but also includes all the combat power of firepower, logistics, etc.

b. Echelonned distribution of combat power, for example, division into first- and second-line assault units in the assault and into first- and second-line defense units in the defense, has the sole objective of applying combat power in depth.

c. The mission of reserves is to maintain combat power in depth and to cope with unexpected situations, and they should be used to the maximum in the application of combat power in depth. At that time, concentrated use at critical times and places is important.

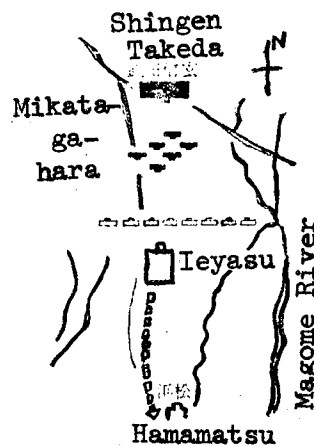


Fig. 5. Map of the
Battle of Mikata-ga-hara
22 Dec 1572

4. The battle front and distribution in depth

Note: Distribution in depth means the distribution in depth of combat power in order to constitute combat power in depth.

The battle front and distribution in depth are inseparably related.

It resembles, for example, the relation between width and depth in quadrilaterals of the same area. In other words, with a given combat power, if the battle front is increased, distribution in depth is decreased, and if distribution in depth is increased, the battle front is decreased. This correlation is extremely important.

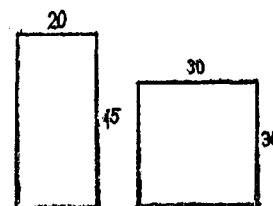


Fig. 6

The items that should be considered in determining the battle front and distribution in depth, may be listed as follows:

- a. Adapting width and depth to the objective to be achieved (objective to be seized)
- b. Power in the spearhead exceeding that of the enemy
- c. Flank-support relationship
- d. The enemy's situation, particularly the front and depth
- e. Terrain and weather

Chapter V. Containment and Strike

1. The 4F principles in combat

Combat involves the following four functions:

- a. Find (Intelligence function)
- b. Fix (Containment action)
- c. Fight (Strike action)
- d. Finish (Achieving the battle success)

Of these, the main element is the third, strike action, and success in this is an annihilation battle.

2. Relationship between containment and strike

a. In order to crush (strike) enemy combat power by means of our combat power, the primary condition is the place struck by the enemy's combat power; and for this reason, it is clear that action is necessary that contains enemy combat power to our desired time and place. Thus, containment and the strike have a close and inseparable relationship.

b. Two types of sequences of containment and strike action may be considered, as follows:

- (1) The case of first containing the enemy and then effecting the strike
- (2) The case of accomplishing the containment and strike simultaneously

Both cases are the same in their relation to the essential nature of containment action, which is "impeding (limiting) the enemy's freedom of action."

c. Containment actions necessary for the strike include the following:

- (1) Impeding the movement of combat power
- (2) Impeding the organization (reorganization) of combat power
- (3) Impeding the change of speed of combat power
- (4) Impeding or forcing change of direction of combat power

3. Examples of applying containment and the strike
[Numbers in quotation marks are keyed to the respective figures]

a. Attack

- (1) Envelopment and turning movement [Fig. 7]

"1" Containment of the enemy on his front

"2" Moving to a favorable position and striking

- (2) Breakthrough [Fig. 8]

"1" Containment (impeding movement) by a secondary attack

"2" Strike by the main attack

b. Defense [Fig. 9]

"1" Blocking of the enemy by positions, interdiction of reinforcement by firepower (containment)

"2" Counterattack by reserves (strike)

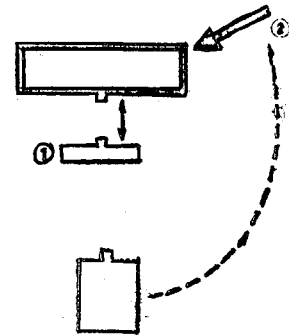


Fig. 7

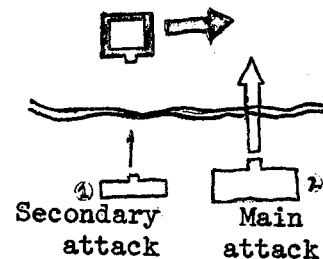


Fig. 8

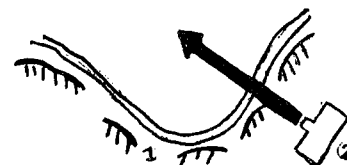


Fig. 9

c. Pursuit [Fig. 9]

"1" Unit assigned to exert direct pressure....containment of enemy withdrawal by continuous and unrelenting pressure

"2" Unit assigned to a turning movement....interdicting the enemy's route of withdrawal and encircling and destroying the enemy (strike)

d. Defense against amphibious landings

Coastal-defense [large-unit] group (containment) and strike [large-unit] group (strike).

Part III. CONCENTRATION OF COMBAT POWER

Chapter I. Summary

1. Significance of concentration of combat power

a. Meaning of "concentration of combat power"

"Concentration of combat power" is the assembling of as much as possible of our combat power and its integrated application at critical times and places.

This is one of the "methods of using power" that apply limited power in the most effective manner and one of the most important principles of war derived from the basic principle of war that superiority wins and inferiority loses.

b. Why is "concentration of combat power" one of the most important principles of war?

"Concentration of combat power" makes it possible for us to create relative superiority at decisive times and places even though we are inferior in the overall ratio of relative combat power of both sides.

In other words, battle occurs with both sides using limited power in a course of time and space called a battlefield. Within this time and space, there exists a critical point that also could be called the decisive point, namely, a [specific] time and place. If victory is gained at that point, even if another unimportant area is temporarily disadvantageous, complete victory can be gained.

c. How should victory be gained at the critical point?

The fact that this can be done by applying superior combat power sufficient to destroy the enemy, is clearly reflected also in the basic principle of war that superiority wins and inferiority loses.

In order for us to gain superiority in the ratio of relative combat power at the decisive time and place, we must not only strive to concentrate combat power but also make a maximum effort to disperse and destroy enemy combat power.